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ON PAGE ~~4A~~WASHINGTON TIMES  
4 October 1985

# Fired CIA pair took revenge by spying for KGB, FBI told

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THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Two former CIA operatives suspected of spying for the Soviet Union were dismissed from the agency as the result of improper conduct and then took revenge by spying for the KGB, according to administration and congressional sources.

The FBI is continuing to search for Edward L. Howard, a former economic analyst with the finance committee of the New Mexico legislature, who resigned two weeks ago and eluded federal agents who had placed him under surveillance.

Howard, a former CIA operations officer hired in January 1981, was fired by the agency in June 1983 after he was discovered stealing money from the CIA and for using illegal drugs, sources said.

He also failed to pass the CIA's probationary period for new employees, the sources said.

"He was a rotten apple we got rid of in 1983," said a senior CIA official.

A second ex-CIA operative also is under investigation on suspicion he supplied CIA secrets to the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service, in connection with Howard. But sources said his crimes appeared to be less serious than the FBI's case against Howard.

The unidentified former operative also was dismissed from the agency for disciplinary reasons and

not for suspected espionage activities, sources said.

To date, the two former CIA employees being sought by the FBI are the only two Soviet agents implicated by Vitaly Yurchenko, a senior KGB defector. The CIA does not suspect that a Soviet agent — or "mole" — has burrowed into the intelligence service, the sources said.

Howard has been charged with conspiracy to deliver national defense information to an unspecified foreign government believed to be the Soviet Union.

The espionage charges were filed in a federal arrest warrant issued Sept. 23 in Albuquerque, N.M. Four days later, Howard was charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for violating probation on his 1984 conviction in a Santa Fe, N.M., gun-brandishing incident.

Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., said yesterday that at his request Rep. Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, has agreed to hold a hearing next week on Mr. Yurchenko's reported disclosures concerning Americans.

"I'm extremely concerned about the potential damage to national security," Mr. Richardson said, alluding to Howard's reported access to the Los Alamos laboratory.

In Los Alamos, a businessman told reporters he and a lab official met with Howard and that Howard had asked questions about technol-

ogy transfers. The lab conducts top secret research on nuclear weapons for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Contrary to news reports, Howard never served in Moscow nor was he offered the post while working for the CIA, these sources said.

Howard served in the Peace Corps, its ACTION division and the Agency for International Development before his employment with the CIA, the sources said.

Howard was described by these sources as a "revenge case" similar to that of former CIA cable clerk William Kampiles.

Kampiles was convicted in 1978 of passing the Soviets a top secret manual for the KH-11 spy satellite after failing to be admitted to the CIA's clandestine services division.

Federal authorities were led to the two Soviet agents by information provided by Mr. Yurchenko, the Soviets No. 5 man in the KGB. Mr. Yurchenko defected to the West in Rome Aug. 1 and is being debriefed by the FBI and CIA.

FBI officials defended their surveillance of Howard, saying he was only a suspect and had not yet been charged in any legal proceedings when he disappeared.

Federal authorities in New Mexico last month found two airline tickets from Santa Fe to Austin, Texas, after searching Howard's house. Howard, 33, graduated from the University of Texas in Austin.